

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 PORT M 00193 060020Z

21

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /054 W

----- 037019

R 052302Z MAR 75

FM AMCONSUL PORT MORESBY

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 336

INFO /AMEMBASSY CANBERRA 492

C O N F I D E N T I A L PORT MORESBY 0193

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PP

SUBJ: BOUGAINVILLE SEPARATISM

REF: PORT MORESBY 443

PORT MORESBY 414

PORT MORESBY A-36

1. DON VERNON, GENERAL MANAGER OF BOUGAINVILLE COPPER, TOLD ME FEB 27 THAT BOUGAINVILLE SEPARATIONIST SENTIMENT MAY NOT NOW BE VISIBLE BUT HAS BY NO MEANS DIED.

2. HIS CONVERSATIONS WITH BOUGAINVILLE POLITICAL LEADERS AND WITH WHITE-COLLAR WORKERS AT COPPER MINE LEAD HIM TO BELIEVE THAT THE ULTIMATE AIM OF THE LEADERS IS SEPARATION. HE THINKS THAT THE PEOPLE CAN BE PERSUADED TO FOLLOW THE LEADERS TOWARDS A SEPARATE NATION.

3. THE LEADERS BELIEVE IT IS BETTER TO TAKE ONE STEP AT A TIME TO REACH A SEPARATE STATE, AND HENCE THEY ARE PUSHING FOR AS MUCH PROVINCIAL AUTONOMY AS POSSIBLE NOW, HE SAID. THE BOUGAINVILLE LEADERS VIEWED THE GPNG DECISION TO LET THE PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT HAVE THE BCL ROYALTIES AS A GREAT MORAL VICTORY (EVEN THOUGH THE FINANCIAL GAIN WAS MINIMAL) BECAUSE THEY VIEW THIS AS A SIGNIFICANT STEP IN SEPARATION. THEY WANT BCL MONEY TO STAY IN BOUGAINVILLE, AND ARE WILLING TO LET THE CENTRAL GOVERNMENT'S MONEY STAY

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 PORT M 00193 060020Z

ON THE BIG ISLAND.

4. COMMENT: VERNON IS INTELLIGENT, SEEMS TO HAVE A WIDE RANGE OF CONTACTS, AND HAS BEEN IN BOUGAINVILLE FOR SEVERAL YEARS.

5. HIS VIEWS ARE VERY DIFFERENT FROM WHAT WE HEAR FROM POLITICAL SOURCES IN PORT MORESBY. IT IS IN GENERALLY THOUGHT HERE THAT THE GRANTING OF PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT TO BOUGAINVILLE HAS DEFUSED THE SEPARATIONIST PRESSURES. THE PREVAILING VIEW IN MORESBY IS THAT SOME DEGREE OF AUTONOMY AND MORE DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS HAVE TAKEN THE STEAM OUT OF THE SEPARATIST DRIVE. IF THIS IS ONLY PORT MORESBY'S WISHFUL THINKING, OUR APPRAISALS ABOUT THE FUTURE OF A UNITED PNG ARE UNREALISTIC.

6. I AM CONCERNED THAT THIS POST DOES NOT HAVE THE TRAVEL MONEY TO PERMIT US TO VISIT BOUGAINVILLE SO THAT WE CAN KEEP ABREAST OF THE POLITICAL THINKING THERE. THE MOST RECENT TRIP ANYONE FROM THIS POST HAS MADE THERE WAS MY ONE DAY STOP ACCOMPANYING AMBASSADOR GREEN IN OCTOBER. A CONGEN VISIT TO BOUGAINVILLE SCHEDULED FOR FEBRUARY HAD TO BE CANCELLED BECAUSE OF LACK OF TRAVEL MONEY.
OLMSTED

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: SECESSION, LABOR UNIONS, BOUGAINVILLE
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 05 MAR 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: MartinML
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975PORTM00193
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750078-0117
From: PORT MORESBY
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750380/aaaacuge.tel
Line Count: 84
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 PORT MORESBY 443
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: MartinML
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 03 JUL 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <03 JUL 2003 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <12 NOV 2003 by MartinML>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: BOUGAINVILLE SEPARATISM
TAGS: PINT, PP
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006